

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

**SECRET**

Special Branch, ~~55555~~ 5678

Date August 3, 1938. 38

Subject Woodcraft Works, Limited

Made by D.S. Pitts

Forwarded by

*C. G. Gauda. J. J.*

Woodcraft Works, Limited (incorporated in Hongkong) dealing in timber, the manufacture of tea-chests, doors, flooring, and parquets and in veneer work has its head office located at Rooms 505-506, 103 Kiukiang Road. Established in late 1932, when the concern was closely connected with the Lumber Department of Centrosojus, the firm was incorporated under the Hongkong Ordinances on February 21, 1934. At the time of incorporation, the principals of the company were :-

E. Moses, British;

~~A. Ravve~~, Russian (Soviet) and

E.F. Toeg, British.

Moses subsequently resigned his position and at present Ravve and Toeg are the two principal shareholders of the organization.

The business conducted by Woodcraft Works, Ltd., since its inception has been far from financially successful and in February, 1937, the company's assets in the shape of its factory and saw mill at Kwang Foh Road near Jessfield Road, its office furnishings and fittings, etc., etc., were mortgaged to the Chartered Bank of India for a sum of \$150,000.00. This mortgage is still in the hands of the bank.

The organizer of the enterprise was Gersh Abramovich RAVVE, a Soviet citizen of Jewish origin, who was born on April 28, 1879 in Podolsk, Russia. At the time the firm was established Ravve was an adviser of the Kwang Hwa Petroleum Company, which acted as a distributor of Soviet

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

..... Station,

Date ..... 19

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Subject .....

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oil products in north and Central China. He arrived in Shanghai from Harbin in 1931 and shortly afterwards was connected as an expert in economics with the local branch of Centrosojus. He is now residing at 53 Savoy Apartments, 131 Route Say Zoong.

Ezekiel Paraj Toeg, the principal shareholder, is a British subject of Arabian-Jewish origin and resides at 430 Seymour Road. He is quite a well known local merchant who conducts various transactions in the Shanghai business world.

During the 1937 hostilities in the Western Area of Shanghai the factory was burned down, but it is now being rebuilt on the same site and it is hoped that it will be operating again by September of this year.

The capital of Woodcraft Works, Ltd., is \$1,000,000.00, made up of 100,000 \$10 shares. 25,150 such shares have been taken up, 16,000 of which are possessed by Messrs. E.F. Toeg and G.A. Ravve.

*Ja. Pitts*

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

P. A. to D. C. Sp. Br?

Copy sent  
23/8/38 (E.)  
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Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE.  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

To P.A. Shanghai, 19.7.38 193

Please have enquiries  
made into business  
of Woodcraft Works Ltd  
& antecedents & present  
activities of the principals  
of the firm

JK

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193

1938

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
File No. S. B. REGISTRY.

S.2, Special Branch

REPORT

Date February 18, 1934

Subject (in full) Woodcraft Works, a firm dealing with Centrosojus.

Made by D.S. Tcheremshansky Forwarded by *D. S. Tcheremshansky*

Information has been received that the firm "Woodcraft Works", No.19 Central Arcade (Timber Merchants, Manufacturers of Shooks, Tea Chests, Veneer, Doors, Flooring and Parquets) which has a saw mill on Kwang Foh Road near Jessfield Park, is closely connected with the Lumber Department (Dalles) of the local office of Centrosojus. The firm has an agreement with the Centrosojus for supplies of Soviet timber at a low price. The Works was established in December 1932 when the agreement between M.S. Bloch (File D-5662) and the Centrosojus was dissolved. The principal shareholder in the Works is one E.F. Toeg, a British subject of Arabian-Jewish origin, who resides at No.8 Ferry Road. The organiser and also a partner of the enterprise is G.A. Rave, Soviet citizen, Russian Jew (File L.O.9154) who is an adviser of the Kwang Hwa Petroleum Co., No.3 Museum Road, a firm distributing Soviet oil products in South China.

The manager of this firm is one J.L. Friend, a Russian Jew registered as a Russian emigrant. He resides at No. 1277 Yu Yuen Road. The Superintendent of the saw mill is one Yakov Fedorovitch Chetvernina, Russian, Soviet citizen, formerly employed with the Bloch & Co. Saw Mill on Jessfield Road. Chetvernina resides on the premises of the saw mill.

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*Tcheremshansky*  
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

**WOODCRAFT WORKS, LTD.**

Connected with Lumber Dept. (Dalles) of local  
office of Centrosojus.

**RAVVE, Gersh Abramovich**

Principal shareholder of above Works.

Formerly adviser of Kwang Hwa Petroleum Co. -  
distributor of Soviet oil products in North and  
Central China.

**TOEG, Ezekiel Faraj**

Principal shareholder of above Works.

**CHETVERNIA, Yakov Fedorovitch**

Superintendent of saw mill.

**CMP**

SMP: No. D 5678